

REMARKS

This communication responds to the Office Action dated January 7, 2010.

Claim 9 is amended. No claims are canceled or added by this Response. Claims 1-9 remain pending in this application.

Specification Objections

The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. The Specification is amended as indicated above to remove the embedded hyperlink. Withdrawal of the objection to the Specification is respectfully requested.

The Rejection of Claims Under § 103

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith (US 2005/0140610) in view of Nimmer (US 6,980,182). Claim 9 is amended. An example of support for the amendment can be found in the published PCT application on page 7, second paragraph, on pages 23-25, and in Figures 5a-5e and 8b.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that amended claim 9 is not obvious in view of the cited portions of Smith and Nimmer because the cited portions of these documents and/or the reasoning of the Office Action do not disclose, among other things,

summing said plurality of controlled column currents, and dividing the summed current between a plurality of row electrodes such that each row has a respective divided current, the ratio of said divided currents being controlled by a controllable current mirror on the basis of an applied reference signal,

as presently recited in claim 9.

The Office Action notes on page 4 that Smith does not disclose simultaneously driving the plurality of row electrodes at the same time as the driving of the plurality of column electrodes, but asserts that Nimmer discloses ... simultaneously driving a plurality of row electrodes at the same time as driving of a plurality of column electrodes.

However, Nimmer refers to activating row electrodes by multiplexing (*see* Nimmer, col. 5 lines 45-48), instead of *dividing the summed current between a plurality of row electrodes such*

that each row has a respective divided current, the ratio of said divided currents being controlled by a controllable current mirror. Indeed, the Office Action states that currents on the column electrode are dispersed according to Kirchoff's current law. The cited portions of Smith apparently refer to a current mirror for a column driver (*see* Smith, ¶¶0050-0051, Figure 5) and not for dividing row current. Also, the current mirror of Smith does not appear to be controllable (*see* Smith, ¶¶0051, ¶¶0054). Thus, Smith with Nimmer does not describe the controlling recited in claim 9.

Therefore, the proposed combination of Smith with Nimmer does not provide each and every element of claim 9. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 are allowed. Applicant acknowledges the allowed subject matter with appreciation.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (612) 371-2172 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or deficiencies, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 6th day of April, 2010.

PATRICIA A. HULTMAN

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